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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/579,318	05/16/2006	Tatsurou Iwasaki	2950-061389	1885
28289	7590	12/24/2008	EXAMINER	
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.			SINGH, SUNIL	
700 KOPPERS BUILDING			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
436 SEVENTH AVENUE				3672
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219				
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/24/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/579,318	IWASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sunil Singh	3672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 line 2, "the hollow cavity" lacks clear antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skogberg et al. or Skogberg et al. (US 4509889, 4634317) in view of either Hutchins (US 6428243) or Herron (US 4511289)

Skogberg et al. '899, '317 both teach steel pipe rockbolt, comprising a rockbolt main body (11) and a pressurized-fluid-introducing sleeve fixed by welding (see col. 3 lines 3-4, col. 3 lines 5-6) to the rockbolt main body at an end for introduction of a pressurized fluid, wherein the rockbolt main body is configured to hydraulically expand upon the introduction of the pressurized fluid (see abstract, abstract), the pressurized-fluid-

introducing sleeve comprising a projecting part (42,42) with an outer diameter larger than a diameter of an aperture of a bearing plate (41,41), and a bearing-plate-holding part (19,19) with an outer diameter smaller than the diameter of the aperture of the bearing plate, whereby the bearing plate is held in contact with a step between the projecting part and the bearing-plate-holding part, the projecting part and the bearing-plate-holding part are formed in series, whereby the bearing plate locates on an edge of a rockbolt-setting hole drilled in a bedrock or ground, and the bearing-plate-holding part extends through the aperture of the bearing plate into the rockbolt-setting hole.

Skogberg et al. '899, '317 both disclose the invention substantially as claimed. However, they both lack a pressurized fluid introducing hole on the projecting part. Hutchins and Herron both teach a pressurized fluid introducing hole (see Fig. 2, 18) on a projection part. It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify either Skogberg et al. '899, '317 to include a pressurized fluid introducing hole on the projection part as taught by either Hutchins or Herron in order to provide additional means for injecting fluid to expand the rockbolt.

Re claim 3, it would have been considered obvious to have the rockbolt main body formed from a steel pipe coated with a Zn, Zn-Al or Zn- Al-Mg plating layer since such a modification provides adequate strength and prevent corrosion.

Re claims 4-6, the rockbolt main body has a continuous outer surface defining a hollow cavity that is adapted to hydraulically expand upon the introduction of the pressurized fluid (see Fig. 3, 3).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunil Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7051. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sunil Singh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3672

Sunil Singh
Primary Examiner
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SS 12/18/08

Application/Control Number: 10/579,318
Art Unit: 3672

Page 5